



City of Petoskey

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October 18, 2011

Representative Paul Opsommer
Chairperson, Transportation Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
N-1197 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Representative Opsommer,

I am writing to voice the City of Petoskey's strong support for divestiture legislation that the Transportation Committee will be considering for a State owned rail spur in Petoskey. The Jarman rail spur property already serves as an important recreational and utility corridor for the City of Petoskey, and the City wishes to further enhance this corridor and expand its future use.

The abandoned Jarman rail spur is located in the southern portion of Petoskey, and, with permission from the State of Michigan, is currently utilized for walking trails through the Bear River Valley Recreation Area and the North Country Hiking Trail. In addition, the property serves as the pathway for one of the City's main high voltage electrical feeds to a substation located near Sheridan Street.

Ownership of the property will allow the City to further improve the abandoned rail corridor and enhance it for community use. Because of its linear characteristics, the Jarman property will allow the City to tie neighborhoods together via recreational paths, and provide the City flexibility with future utility improvements.

I hope that you will support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Dan Ralley
City Manager

cc. Representative Foster